

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING THE NAVAJO CODE TALKERS ON MEMORIAL DAY

• Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, as our nation gratefully remembers the deceased men and women of our military, I have a special commemoration for this Memorial Day, 1999. This year, as brave American patriots willingly put themselves in "harm's way" to defend the values and national interests of all Americans in places like the Balkans and the Persian Gulf, I rise to remind my colleagues here in the United States Senate and the American people of one distinguished group of patriots who gave so unselfishly at a time when their rights of citizenship were restricted—the Navajo Code Talkers of World War II. I want to let everyone know how honored we Delawareans are to welcome to my state one of these Native American patriots and World War II veterans this Memorial Day weekend.

The Clarence Vinson-John Chason Post #3238 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, in Camden, Delaware will have the distinct privilege of hosting Mr. Samuel Billison. Mr. Billison was one of the Navajo Code Talkers who helped the United States of America defeat the Axis Powers in the Pacific during World War II. Mr. Billison is traveling from Window Rock, Arizona to be the featured speaker at the May 31st Memorial Day observances being conducted by VFW Post #3238 at the Ceasar Rodney High School auditorium.

My state—the First State, the State that started our nation—has a long and proud history of celebrating the culture and accomplishments of Native Americans. It is only fitting, therefore, that Post Commander Mark Newman and Memorial Day Program Director Thomas E. Weyant sought out Mr. Samuel Billison, once one of the select Navajo Code Talkers.

Each Navajo Code Talker made an invaluable personal contribution to the success of our nation's effort in World War II to preserve freedom and democracy. What is most astonishing about this is that they were willing to take on the responsibilities of democracy at a time when they were not allowed to enjoy the full blessings and rights of democracy here at home.

Their communications contribution to World War II began in 1942 with a small group of 29 Navajos who shared their unique and unwritten language with the United States Marine Corps. Together they developed an unbreakable verbal code. By 1943, nearly 200 Navajo Code Talkers were dispersed to three combat divisions of the U.S. Marine Corps. As part of Marine Corps signal units, they participated through 1944 in the Pacific battles whose names bear witness to the honor and bravery

of America's Marines—Bouganville, Tarawa, Cape Gloucester, the Marshall Islands, Saipan, Guam, and Peleliu.

As 1945 unfolded, all six divisions of the Marine Corps in the Pacific theater were using the distinctive skills and loyal services of approximately 400 Navajo Code Talkers. These brave Native Americans joined other courageous Marines to recapture Iwo Jima and Okinawa. In the first two days of the battle for Iwo Jima, Navajo Code Talkers flawlessly translated over 800 messages. At the end of that month-long blood bath, it was Navajo Code Talkers who spelled out "Mt. Suribachi" as the flag was raised. By late 1945, the Navajo Code Talkers were serving with the occupation forces in Japan and China.

The historical accomplishments and story of the Navajo Code Talkers must be preserved and retold for future generations. These Native American communications experts used their native tongue to thwart the enemy; to expedite military operations for critical territory; and to save countless lives in combat. Learning their story and repeating it is more than a matter of historical accuracy and completeness, or even a matter of just recognition and gratitude. As my friend Tom Weyant pointed out—speaking, I believe, for all Delawareans—it is also critical that Americans enter the New Millennium understanding the community ethos and deep patriotism of the Navajos who fought in World War II. The Navajos saw that "pulling together" was a matter of national survival. They gave unselfishly to defend ideals that even today, all we Americans still have not fully realized here in the United States, because the Navajos had faith that America would always continue to move toward the realization and fulfillment of those ideals.

Mr. President, we in Delaware salute the Navajo Code Talkers of World War II. They are unsung heroes who played a vital role in our ultimate success in the Pacific by providing a code which the Japanese never could decipher. While many knew that Native Americans faithfully served in the war, including Navajos, it was not until 1968 that the existence of this top-secret code was finally declassified and made public. Our entire country is indebted to Mr. Billison, to all the Navajo Code Talkers, and to the thousands of Native Americans from various tribes who served so loyally and selflessly in both the Pacific and European theaters of World War II. We must never forget the ultimate sacrifice these Native Americans were willing to make at a time when they and their families were not even allowed to vote or participate in the full fruits of American citizenship in several states.

Mr. Samuel Billison, the Navajo legacy of patriotism, the Navajo contribution of their unique skills, the Navajo

heritage of heroism, and the Navajo example of love for America must be carried forward by us all. Your story embodies all that we Americans look for in our heroes today and that we revere in the rich tradition of our United States Marine Corps. To you and to all who served, I thank you. •

SECTION 201 PETITION FOR THE LAMB INDUSTRY

• Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I rise today to bring to everyone's attention the issue of lamb imports. These imports are being sold well below the price of identical domestic products and have created a slow motion, chain reaction collapse of the lamb market that continues through this day.

This nation's lamb industry suffers not only from the unprecedented surge of imports that have flooded the domestic marketplace. It suffers not only from the skyrocketing, record-setting levels that now dominate one-third of all lamb consumed in the United States.

This industry also suffers from severe and consistent price undercutting by importers.

Evidence of the price disparity can be found in the report prepared by the U.S. International Trade Commission. The Commission made dozens of product-to-product comparisons. In 8 out of 10 comparisons, the Commission found imports undercutting domestic products by margins of 20 percent to 40 percent.

Other comparisons have found disparities reaching as high as 70 percent. This gulf is directly related to global economic conditions. In Asia, the widespread economic crash left traditional buyers unable to pay for new shipments of lamb meat from Australia and New Zealand—those products had to go somewhere.

It couldn't go to the European market. The European Union has absolute quotas in place to govern the amount of lamb imports into that market.

Instead, it came here, to the United States market. It came to a market that stands open and unprotected. To a market where the government has done nothing, absolutely nothing, to protect its own domestic industries from devastating surges of imports.

That surge began what amounts to a slow-motion crash of the domestic lamb market in the fall of 1997. Packers and processors with lamb to sell suddenly lost account after account to the cheaper imports. Losing money by the day, they had none to pay to their own suppliers and the lamb feeder level.

And so it went, with domestic producers hoping the surge would slow of its own accord. Hoping the importers would realize the devastation they'd wrought. Hoping they could stay in business long enough to finish upgrading equipment, or solidifying alliances—to become more competitive.

But the onslaught from imports was relentless. From the processors and packers to the feeders, the domestic market crash now reaches all the way to farms and ranches that have stood for generations—an entire industry teeters on the edge of financial ruin.

Last fall, some producers with sheep to sell couldn't find a single buyer. For the second Easter/Passover season in a row, the market's traditional high point and the largest holiday marketing period of the year—live lambs were selling in the 60-cent per pound range. Few producers in the country can remain in business at those prices.

Let me add my voice to those urging the President to fashion strong, effective import relief for the U.S. lamb industry. This relief must do two things, curb this unprecedented surge of imports and level the playing field.●

RECOGNITION OF EDGAR LEE NEWTON

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a remarkable person from my home state of Michigan, Mr. Edgar Lee Newton. On May 23, 1999, Mr. Newton will be honored upon his retirement after 18 years as the president of the Bay City branch of the NAACP.

As president of the Bay City NAACP, Edgar Newton has fought many difficult battles for equality and civil rights. Although his tireless efforts on behalf of the NAACP are worthy of recognition in their own right, Mr. Newton has not confined his community service to the NAACP. He has also served with distinction in leadership roles with organizations like the American Red Cross, the United Way, Habitat for Humanity and the Kiwanis Club.

Edgar Newton's departure from the NAACP will mark a new chapter in his life. I can only hope it is as successful as his civil rights career. Though I am sure he will remain active in the Bay City community, he will enjoy spending more time with his wife Shirley and his two children and grandchild. I am pleased to join his colleagues, friends and family in offering my thanks for all he has done.

Mr. President, Edgar Newton can take pride in the many important achievements of his tenure with the NAACP. He has truly exhibited a dedication to justice and equality for all people. I know my colleagues will join me in saluting his commitment to civil rights and in wishing him well in his retirement.●

MELISSA YORK, WINNER OF JAMES MADISON MEMORIAL FOUNDATION FELLOWSHIP

● Mr. GORTON. Today, I would like to recognize Melissa York, a teacher from Tyee High School in Seatac. She has

won Washington State's 1999 James Madison Memorial Foundation Fellowship which will pay for her graduate school program.

James Madison was perhaps the hardest working and most widely respected man of his day. Commonly hailed as the Father of our Constitution, Madison had more to do with its conception than any other man. He was the driving force in organizing the convention and in establishing the tone and ironing out each obstacle that threatened the success of the Constitution.

Because of Madison's tremendous contributions to the creation of the Constitution, Congress decided to establish the Memorial Foundation Fellowship to recognize Americans who teach American history and the Constitution to our young people.

Each day Melissa teaches eleventh and twelfth graders about the Constitution and how it is used in everyday life and how it is reflected in our society. The future of our country depends on today's students and on their knowledge and comprehension of our Constitution and government.

She not only gives her students greater understanding of our country, but she also inspires her students to achieve more through her example. By continuing her own education, Melissa is showing her students that the educational process should never end.

I applaud Melissa for her hard work and dedication to her profession and for her commitment to her students and to learning.●

SALUTE TO ALEX XUE

● Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, on Friday May 14th, MATHCOUNTS held its national competition in Washington, D.C.—the culmination of local and State competitions involving 350,000 students. It gives me great pleasure to inform my colleagues that Alex Xue, a resident of Essex Junction, VT finished second in this competition and received a \$6,000 college scholarship.

In a day and age where we are bombarded by reports of failing school systems and apathetic young people, I believe it is extremely important to recognize Alex's tremendous accomplishment. His success is a tribute not only to his own intelligence and hard work, but also to his family, his teachers and his school community.

In addition to meeting with Alex and his MATHCOUNTS teammates on the Senate steps prior to the competition, by coincidence, I was on Alex's flight back to Vermont on the Sunday following his competition. I had a chance to talk with Alex and compliment him on his tremendous achievement. He was holding the trophy he had received and when I admired it, although it was clear that he was happy with it, he was especially pleased with the college scholarship. I praised him as any

Vermonters would, but I was impressed with his modesty and his pride in his family and school. This is a young man who will do remarkably well in life and we Vermonters should be proud that he is one of us.

I ask that the editorial detailing Alex's achievement, which appeared in the Burlington Free Press, be printed in the RECORD.

The article follows:

[From the Burlington Free Press, May 19, 1999]

WHAT ALEX KNOWS

Imagine a 13-year-old boy who finished second in the nation in an athletic event.

Vermont would know exactly how to celebrate: His parents and coaches would be praised, he would be held up as a role model for other kids, his community would be proud.

Alex Xue of Essex Junction deserves the same response, for scoring second in a nationwide math contest last week.

This remarkable performance is a tribute to his school, though schools are rarely praised these days. This success requires effective instruction year upon year.

His award is an accolade that also belongs to his parents, who support his studies. Would that more parents lavished as much time on their children's academics as they do on their sports.

The high finish is also a sign that he is a smart kid, very smart, and that is worth a great deal in the life Alex and his classmates have ahead of them.

Of course, schools cannot fix their attention solely on top students, because they must serve everyone who enters their doors. But they can recognize talent and reward performance, because it motivates other students, and because it serves as a reminder of what school is for: to learn, to strive, to fail at times and gain by the experience, and to achieve.

For his knowledge of math, statistics, geometry and more, Alex receives a \$6,000 college scholarship—a fitting prize. Learning offers rewards for every student, though, not just the smartest, and education level is the clearest indicator of a person's later wages.

Won't it be fun to see what becomes of Alex and his abilities? Wouldn't it be something if society thought of every child's potential that way?●

"FRIENDS OF ROMAN LEE HRUSKA"

● Mr. HAGEL. Mr. President, I ask that the attached comments made by the Honorable Charles Thone at the memorial service for former Senator Roman Lee Hruska, be printed in the RECORD for Monday, April 26, 1999, immediately following my remarks entitled, "Tribute to U.S. Senator Roman L. Hruska."

The comments follow:

FRIENDS OF ROMAN LEE HRUSKA

Friends all:

First, let me, and all of you here today, recognize two special people, Millie and Carl Curtis. Sen. Curtis served all 22 years with Roman, and Senator Hruska always acknowledged that no U.S. Senator ever had a more caring, a better and more cooperative colleague anywhere—anytime. Thank you, Senator Curtis.